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Culture -- Puerto Rico (6)

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

# PUERTO RICAN CULTURE

## A Comprehensive Bibliography

## with an introductory essay

Paper presented to Dr. Richard Krzys
as a requirement of the course LS 2047
(Latin American Resources and Services)

School of Library and Information Science

By

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

April 1992

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# INTRODUCTION

This work was made to fulfill the requirements of the course LS2047 (Latin American Resources and Services), submitted to Dr. Richard Krzys at the School of Library and Information Science of the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

To understand the behavior of the peoples of a country and their evolution, one must have an understanding of the society and the profound changes this society has endured. The most comprehensive way to learn and know about it is by reading or studying about the culture in its broadest sense of that country, but having beforehand a framework of its background. This is why the present comprehensive bibliography, preceeded by an introductory essay on the Puerto Rican culture, include several titles covering the history of Puerto Rico, recommended by the author. These titles were evaluated and selected by the author based on her experiences, first as a Puerto Rican and secondly as a Reference Librarian in her country.

Puerto Rican Culture: A Comprehensive Bibliography covers a wide range of literature published, especially in English with and some in Spanish, on Puerto Rico regarding the cultural aspects and general culture of the Island. For those titles in Spanish, the equivalent title in English is given in brackets, so the reader can take advantage of almost all the literature considered in this bibliography.

The purpose of the bibliography is to bring together a group of sources on Puerto Rican culture and others related, or that it can be helpful in doing research on the topic, for the general reader to the college student, specialist and non-specialist; interested in the life and customs, and the whole baggage, of the people of the Island of Puerto Rico since the discovery to date. The Bibliography is comprehensive in terms of kind of sources but selective in terms of content.

The sources included are for the most part available in American libraries, but many of them can be find at those college and university libraries belonging to institutions with programs on Puerto Rican and/or Latin American Studies. Sources are also available at libraries such as the New York Public Library (NYPL) and the Library of Congress (LC).

It is divided in categories such as general works (books, monographs, etc.), articles in journals, periodicals, among others; including non-print materials and databases. Even the abundance of books and studies in the social sciences, and in the specific topics, reflecting a deep concern and interest in the areas; the author's interest is to allow the reader to take a new look at the main evolution features about culture in the whole country.

# PUERTO RICAN CULTURE

## A Comprehensive Bibliography

### PUERTO RICO - GENERAL DATA

Puerto Rico is the eastmost of the Greater Antilles, a group of islands that separates the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. It's a rectangular-shaped island, 100 miles long by 35 miles wide, with a population close to the 3.5 millions of people. It has a range of mountains from east to west of about 4,400 feet above the sea level; and about 50 rivers that flow from the mountains. It's semitropical but cooled by the ocean breezes.

Puerto Ricans are people of mixed black and Spanish descent who inhabit Puerto Rico. The language is Spanish, but English is speaking by most of the population (with great difficulty) as a second language. San Juan, the Capital on the Atlantic shore, has about one third of its population, including many people from other countries; consequently, English is more commonly spoken there.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As is universally known, Columbus discovered America in 1492, and discovered Puerto Rico on November 19, 1493. Before its discovery, Puerto Rico was occupied by the Taino Indians, a peaceful people who were farmers and fishermen. In 1509 Juan Ponce de León established the first Spanish sttlement. The settlers enslaved the Indians to serve as a labor force.

The harsh new labor, European diseases, and disputes with the whites mostly eliminated the Indians, so African slaves were imported for labor. Black slaves brought to the Island in 1513, never formed more than a minority. ~~In~~ By 1846 their population comprised about 11.5 percent of the total. Other populators were deserting sailors and runaway black slaves from other colonies.

The slaves built the fortresses, under Spanish direction, in defense against attacks launched by the Dutch, British, French, and Carib Indians. It was a successful strategy except for the years 1598 and 1625, when the British and the Dutch respectively, attacked the Island and fired on some towns.

Puerto Rico remained under Spanish Military Regime rule until 1898, when the North Americans took the Island during the Spanish American War. It was said that Puerto Rico was granted as a spoil of war of Spain to the United States. Then, ~~the~~ President McKinley appointed a governor to replace the military rule on the Island in 1900. In 1917 by virtue of the Jones Act, Puerto Ricans became U.S. citizens.

Thirty years later the U.S. government provided for Puerto Ricans to elect their own governor, and in 1948 Luis Muñoz Marín became the first elected Governor. In 1951 Muñoz Marín persuaded the U.S. that Puerto Ricans should also have their own constitution.

In 1952 President Truman declared P.R. an independent Commonwealth, adopting its own Constitution as a free associated

state to the U.S. Puerto Ricans retained their U.S. citizenship, and the U.S. government is responsable for their defense. But, Puerto Ricans do not pay taxes to the U.S. government nor vote in its presidential elections. Puerto Ricans govern themselves in internal affairs.

Over the years, Puerto Ricans have disagreed on their options in government: to remain a Commonwealth, to become a state of the U.S., or to declare their independence as a nation. Thus, P.R. has had three major political parties competing for the government elections every four years: the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), the New Progressive Party (PNP), and the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP).

CULTURE TODAY - CULTURE OF MIXED DESCENT

In the beginning of the 19th century immigrants began moving to Puerto Rico. Spaniards from Latin America were joined by French immigrants from Haiti and from Lousiana (U.S.). The agricultural community grew, consisting mostly of peasants and laborers on small to mid-sized forms; devoted to sugar cane, coffee and tobacco.

During the first three decades of U.S. control, poverty forced farmers to sell their land to U.S. sugar companies. Consequently, a large portion of the population moved from the central mountains and western sections to the coastal plains. Others left P.R. to find work in nearby countries, and nearly one fourth of all Puerto Ricans become part of the U.S. work force.

Meanwhile, the population continued growing at a faster rate. In response the government program Operation Bootstrap, in the 1940s, attracted outside industries to the Island. The benefits: low-cost laborers and no U.S. income tax. The consequence: industry became the Island's main source of income.

During P.R.'s first hundred years as a Spanish colony, there were twice as many white males as females which resulted in marriage among the races. Thus, the majority of Puerto Ricans today are a mixed people of white, black and Indian descent. Even though there is no marked racism or prejudice, the social status is influenced by some circumstances in a low level.

Puerto Ricans has a dual identity as Latins and as U.S. citizens, adopting American ways mostly in the large cities. But Latin traditions are strong and may outweigh the Americans. Strong values have been inherited from the Latin American past. One of this is the politeness and "personalismo" (the value of personal relations with family and friends). Puerto Ricans are gentle, kindly, and friendly people; a very important asset for the well established tourism industry for more than fifty years. Another tradition important is the "compadrazgo" (godparents are selected for each child to be supported in religious and worldy ways).

Potential religious growth among the middle calss, but the Roman Catholic tradition still strongest. However,

the mix of Christian tradition with taboos and voodooism maintain the Indian and Black African beliefs. We can observe the influences of the different cultures, not only in the music and dance, but in the arts, architecture of buildings (colonial and modern), and best of all in the peoples. Nevertheless, Puerto Ricans have been greatly influenced by the U.S. in entertainment and recreation habits.

American ways have been adopted by these people whose lives are based on Latin traditions. Changes in society were also experimented in the social order, for example today's immigrants are often wealthy builders and industrialists who formed the upper class. Economy is greatly based on tourism. And the "jíbaro", or ——, is fast becoming a symbol of the past.

IMPORTANT REMARKS

In seeking the cultural roots of Puerto Rico one must understand the significance of the Boriquén Indian and the foundation they gave to the Island's social life and customs. Three distinct cultural traditions originally inhabited the Antilles. The first settlers of P.R. were the Archaic peoples, ignorant of agriculture and ceramics. The second were the Igneri, who were farmers and skillful pottery workers; also , canoe-makers and traders of yucca, corn, and tobacco crops. The third cultural group, the Tainos, possesed a remarkable heritage of beliefs and ceremonies, and created stone sculptures and pottery in the Capa style. The Tainos

were dispersed through the "yucayeques" under the leadership of local "caciques" all over the Island, when the discovery by Columbus arrived. Most of the municipalities' names in the Island are derived from the original indian name of the yucayeques (e.g. Mayagüez, Gurabo, Humacao, Moca, Maunabo, etc.).

The transition from the Taino to the colonial Spanish culture was a period of conflict and creativity. This epic was immortalized by the poet Juan de Castellanos (1522-1607) in the Elegies of Illustrious Men of the Indies, when he describes the Puerto Rican experience and gives testimony of the tragic sentiment expressed by Agüeybaná the great Cacique.

Interracial ties through marriage and cohabitation of the Spanish and Indian elements were early and frequent, especially 16th to 18th century.

Another powerfull ingredient in the culture of P.R. was is represented by the African imprint since the beginning of the 16th century.

In the culture of P.R. literature and life are merged to such a degree that it is impossible to disengage one from the other. Puerto Rico has produced and continues producing great literates, writers, poets, artists, etc., in all the liberal arts and in the sciences.

this statement requires elaboration

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## PERIODICALS

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Pensamiento crítico [Critical Thinking] Río Piedras, PR : Río Piedras, PR : Ediciones Pensamiento Crítico, 1978- Bimonthly

Qué pasa [What's Happening] San Juan, PR : Tourism Company of Puerto Rico, 1948- . Monthly

Revista Chicano-Riqueña . Houston, TX : University of Houston, 1973- . Quarterly

Revista de Ciencias Sociales [Journal of Social Sciences] Río Piedras, PR : Centro de Investigaciones Sociales, U.P.R., 1957- . Semi-annual

Revista del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña [Journal of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture] San Juan, PR : ICP, 1958- . Quarterly

Revista/Review Interamericana. San Juan, PR : Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, 1971- . Quarterly

La Torre: revista general de la Universidad de Puerto Rico [The Tower: General Journal of the University of Puerto Rico] Río Piedras, PR : Editorial Universitaria, U.P.R., 1953- . Quarterly

AUDIOVISUAL AND NON-PRINT MATERIALS

La buena herencia : motion picture
San Juan, PR : Community Education division, Department of Education, n.d. (distributed by Quality Film Laboratories) 26 min., sound, color, 16 mm.

How María and Ramón Live in Puerto Rico : filmstrip
n.p. : Warren Schloat Productions, 1967. (Series: Children of other countries) 46 frames, color, 35 mm.

If You Were Born in Puerto Rico : filmstrip
n.p. : Troll Associates, 1969. (Series: Children around the world) 42 frames, color, 35 mm.

For primary grades.

The Island of Puerto Rico--People : filmstrip
n.p. : Urban Media Materials, 1972. 35 frames, color, 35 mm., with unit plan and student worksheets.

Martínez, Robert A. Puerto Rico: An Historical and Cultural Approach Sound Recording. New York : Folkways Records, 1978. 2 sound discs, 33 1/3 rpm, 12 in.

Milagro en la montaña : motion picture
San Juan, PR : Community Education Division, Department of Education, n.d. (distributed by Quality Film Laboratories) 31 min., sound, color, 16 mm.

La montaña canta : motion picture
San JUan, PR : Community Education Division, Department of Education, n.d. 11 min., sound, black & white, 16 mm.

Not By Bread Alone : motion picture
San Juan, PR : Administración de Fomento Económico, n.d. 20 min., sound, color, 16 mm.

Profile of Puerto Rico : filmstrip
n.p. : Teaching Aids Service, 1956. 50 frames, color, 35 mm., with manual.

Puerto Rico--History and Culture : filmstrip
n.p. : Urban Media Materials, 1969. 2 filmstrips of 58 frames each, color, 35 mm. 2 phonediscs of 2 sides each (1 side for manual projector, 1 side for automatic projector), 12 in., 331/3 rpm; pt. 1 22min., pt. 2 21min. English & Spanish narration with teacher's guide and text.

Contents: 1. History, 2. Culture.

Puerto Rico On Video : videocassette
San Juan, PR : Puerto Rico Tourism Company; produced by Travelview INternational (Miami, FL), 1991. 20 min. color videocassette, VHS format only.

Puerto Rico's People : filmstrip
n.p. : Imperial Film Company, 1966. 36 frames, color, 35 mm. (The Caribbean: Puerto Rico)

!Que Puerto Rico! : motion picture
n.p. : Tibor Hirsch, 1963 (distributed by McGraw-Hill Text Films) 16 min., sound, color, 16 mm.

Trulla : motion picture
San JUan, PR : Community Education Division, Department of Education, n.d. 10 min., sound, black & white, 16 mm.

Vecinos : motion picture
San JUan, PR : Community Education Division, Department of Education, n.d. 28 min., sound, black & white, 16 mm.

Visit to Puerto Rico : motion picture
n.p. : International Film Bureau, 1962. 17 min., color, sound, 46 mm. Available also in Spanish.

Waterman, Richard A. Folk Music of Puerto Rico. Washington, DC : Library of Congress, Music Division Recording Laboratory, 1946. (The Archive of Folk Song AFS-L18) recording

Yurchenco, Henrietta with Gold, Peter and Yurchenco, Peter. Folk Songs of Puerto Rico. New York : Asch Records, 1971. (Asch Mankind Series AHM4412) recording

*Concerning television (TV), programming in a great range is still purchase from abroad including diverse sources. Programming mostly comes from Mexico, Venezuela, and United States.

CENTERS, INSTITUTES, LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITIES

Archivo General de Puerto Rico
[General Archive of Puerto Rico]
Ponce de León No. 500
Edificio Bacardí
Puerta de Tierra
San Juan, PR 00901
Tel. (809) 724-2680

Biblioteca General de Puerto Rico
[Puerto Rico General Library]
Ponce de León No. 500
Puerta de Tierra
San JUan, PR 00901

Biblioteca Pública Carnegie
[Carnegie Public Library]
Avenida Ponce de León
Parada 2
San Juan, PR 00901
Tel. (809) 724-1046

CENTRO
Library
New York, NY
Tel. (212) 772-4197

Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe
[Center of Advanced Studies of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean]
San Sebastián no. 1
Old San JUan, PR 00904 Tels. (809) 723-8772 / 4481

Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Puertorriqueña (CEREP)
[Center of Studies for the Puerto Rican Reality]
Apartado 22200, UPR Station
Universidad de Puerto Rico
Río Piedras, PR 00931

Centro de Estudios Demográficos (CED)
[Center of Demographic Studies]
Universidad de Puerto Rico
Recinto de Ciencias Médicas
Facultad de Ciencias Biosociales y
Escuela Graduada de Salud Pública
G.P.O. Box 5067
San Juan, PR 00936
Tel. (809) 753-5253

Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños (CEP)
[Center of Puerto Rican Studies]
Biblioteca
Colegio Regional de Ponce, UPR
Apartado 7186
Ponce, PR 00732
Tel. (809) 844-8181 ext. 138 ; 139

Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños
[Center of Puerto Rican Studies]
Hunter College
City University of New York (CUNY)
695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021
Tel. (212) 772-5689

Centro de Investigaciones Históricas (CIH)
[Center of Historical Research]
Facultad de Humanidades
Universidad de Puerto Rico
Río Piedras, PR 00931
Tel. (809) 764-2400

Centro de Investigaciones Sociales (CIS)
[Center of Social Research]
Facultad de Ciencias Sociales
Universidad de Puerto Rico
Río Piedras, PR 00931

Centro Iberoamericano de Documentación Musical (CIBDOM)
[Iberoamerican Center of Musical Documentation]
Colegio Universitario de Cayey
Universidad de Puerto Rico
Cayey, PR 00737

Institute for Puerto Rican Policy
114 East 28th St., 3rd floor
New York, NY 10016
Tel. (212) 689-6331

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña (ICP)
[Institute of Puerto Rican Culture]
Programa de Publicaciones
San Juan, PR 00901

Proyecto Caribeño de Justicia y Paz
[Caribbean Project of Justice and Peace]
Calle Navarro no. 53
Hato Rey, PR 00919
Tel. (809) 763-2451

Puerto Rican Collection
[Colección Puertorriqueña]
General Library
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus
Mayagüez, PR 00681
Tel. (809) 832-4040

Puerto Rican Collection
José M. Lázaro Building
Library System
University of Puerto Rico
Box 23302 , UPR Station
Río Piedras, PR 00931-3302
Tel. (809) 764-0000 ext.3463

Puerto Rican Collection
Library
Inter-American University of Puerto Rico
Metropolitan Campus
Río Piedras, PR 00928

Puerto Rican Studies Institute'
Brooklyn College, CUNY
Bedford Avenue and Avenue H
Brooklyn, NY 11210
Tel. (718) 780-5561

DATABASES

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| AID | : | Economic and Social Data Bank ; online<br>Agency for International Development, Washington,DC |
| DA | : | Comprehensive Dissertation Abstracts<br>University Microfilms International<br>Online and CD |
| ERIC | : | Educational Resources Information Center<br>U.S. department of Education ; online and CD |
| HABS/HRAF | : | Automated Bibliographic System : online<br>Human Relations Area Files Inc., Arlington,VA |
| HAPI | : | Hispanic American Periodicals Index ; online<br>UCLA [see page 16 indexes] |
| INFO-SOUTH | : | University of Miami ; online<br>Information on Latin America, emphasis on South America |
| PAIS | : | Public Affairs Information Service ; online and CD |
| PSYCLIT | : | Psychological Abstracts ; online and CD<br>American Psychological Association |
| SA | : | Sociological Abstracts Inc. ; online |
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